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REVIEW AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONCLUDING DOCUMENT OF THE TWELFTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY: REGIONAL CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURES

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.1/52/L.6

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

A. Requests contained in the draft resolution

1. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 1, 5, 7, 10 and 11 of draft resolution A/C.1/52/L.6, the General Assembly would:

(a) Take note of the report of the Secretary-General on regional confidence-building measures (A/52/293), which deals with the activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa in the period since the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 51/46 C of 10 December 1996;

(b) Welcome with satisfaction the programmes and activities of the Standing Advisory Committee for the period 1997-1998, adopted by the member States during the ninth ministerial meeting, held at Libreville from 7 to 11 July 1997 (A/52/283-S/1997/644, annex), which are designed to:

(i) Set up and render operational at the earliest opportunity and on the basis of voluntary contributions an early-warning system for Central Africa;

(ii) Launch programmes designed to retrain demobilized soldiers and prepare them for reintegration into civilian life;

(iii) Combat the illegal circulation of weapons and drugs in the subregion;

(iv) Organize training seminars in order to strengthen the capacity of the Central African States to participate more actively in peacekeeping operations organized under the auspices of the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity;

(v) Organize joint military exercises to simulate the conduct of standard peacekeeping operations;

(vi) Organize, for members of the armed forces and security forces of the Central African States, seminars and awareness programmes relating to the conduct of public affairs, the rule of law and respect for human rights;

(vii) Hold a subregional conference on the topic "Democratic institutions and peace in Central Africa";

(viii) Revert to the holding of two annual meetings of the Standing Advisory Committee at the ministerial level in order to further consultations among the member States;

(c) Welcome the participation, at the invitation of the Government of Gabon, of representatives of the States permanent members of the Security Council in the ninth ministerial meeting of the Standing Advisory Committee, and invite the Secretary-General to facilitate the pursuit of this type of dialogue, which is likely to strengthen cooperation between the Council and the countries concerned with a view to contributing to the peaceful settlement of conflicts in Central Africa, whenever the States members of the Committee so request;

(d) Request the Secretary-General to continue to provide assistance to the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee to ensure that they are able to carry on with their efforts, being convinced that effective cooperation between the international community and the countries of the subregion can stimulate the search for peaceful solutions to the crises and conflicts that occur in the subregion;

(e) Also requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session a report on the implementation of the resolution.

B. Relationship of the request to the proposed programme of work

2. The requests contained in operative paragraphs 10 and 11 of the draft resolution are associated with programme 26, Disarmament, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001.[1] The programme of activities for programme 26, Disarmament, as described in paragraph 2.128 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999,[2] anticipated and thereby made provision for responding to the requests of the draft resolution. In the context of the Secretary-General's measures and proposals on reform contained in document

A/52/303, the activities are proposed for transfer to new section 2B, Disarmament, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999.

C. Activities by which the request would be implemented

3. Implementation of the requests contained in operative paragraphs 10 and 11 of the draft resolution, regarding the provision of assistance to the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee and the submission of a report to the General Assembly, would be carried out under programme 26, Disarmament, from within resources to be provided under the regular budget, as they fall under the programme of activities listed in paragraph 2.128 (a) (xi) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999. The provision contained therein responds to paragraph 5 (h) of the draft resolution, in which the Assembly called for reversion to the holding of two annual meetings of the Standing Advisory Committee, hence substantive servicing of four plenary sessions of the Committee are included therein.

4. The programme of activities of the Standing Advisory Committee outlined in paragraphs (a) to (g) of the draft resolution, to be carried out during the period 1997-1998, is expected to be funded from voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Central Africa Questions. Modalities for the establishment of an early-warning system for Central Africa referred to in paragraph 5 (a) are currently under discussion, hence related cost estimates are not yet formulated. In connection with paragraph 5 (g) on the holding of a subregional conference on the topic "Democratic institutions and peace in Central Africa", requirements in the amount of $171,800 (inclusive of a 13 per cent programme support charge) for its servicing had been set aside from the balance available in the Trust Fund, as the conference was originally scheduled to take place in early 1997. Other activities envisaged for the fourth quarter of 1998 which respond to paragraphs 5 (d) and (f) of the draft resolution are the holding of a joint meeting of ministers of defense and interior of member States of the Standing Advisory Committee in Libreville and the publication of a reference document for the meeting entitled "United Nations concern for peace and security in Central Africa" estimated at $105,100.

5. The effective implementation of the activities outlined in operative paragraphs 5 (a) to (g) of the draft resolution would be associated with the programme of activities of programme 26, Disarmament, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001, as described in section 2 of the proposed programme budget for 1998-1999. The activities are expected to address and examine the persistent threat to peace and security in the Central African subregion with a view to promoting sustainable measures of confidence-building and arms restraint and, in the long term, prevent future conflicts among the member States in the subregion, promote the peaceful resolution of political and security problems and promote disarmament and arms limitation among the States concerned. The President of the Bureau of the Standing Advisory Committee has vigorously launched an appeal for contributions to the Trust Fund, and the Secretary-General, in his report (A/52/293), has also appealed to member States to contribute generously to the Trust Fund.

D. Modifications required in the programme of work for 1998-1999

6. The requests contained in the draft resolution are associated with programme 26, Disarmament, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001. Accordingly, no modification would be required.

E. Additional requirements at full cost

7. The requirements for servicing of a joint meeting of ministers of defense and interior of member States of the Standing Advisory Committee in Libreville during the fourth quarter of 1998 and the publication of a reference document for the meeting entitled "United Nations concern for peace and security in Central Africa" estimated at $105,100 are detailed below. Provision for the holding of a subregional conference on the topic "Democratic institutions and peace in Central Africa" estimated at $171,800, the details of which were provided in document A/C.1/51/L.52, are not repeated here.

	United States dollars
(a) Conference-servicing costs	
(i) Rental of premises	2 800
(ii) Rental of office equipment	5 000
(iii) Interpretation	8 350
Subtotal	16 150
(b) Non-conference-servicing costs	
(i) Overtime	1 500
(ii) Travel and daily subsistence allowance of participants	40 750
(iii) Travel and daily subsistence allowance of staff	21 950
(iv) Other external printing	5 250
(v) General operating expenses and supplies	7 400
Subtotal	76 850
(c) Programme support costs (13 per cent)	12 100
Grand total	105 100

F. Potential for absorption

8. The proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999 would provide for substantive servicing of two annual meetings of the Standing Advisory Committee estimated at $500,000. Other than the Committee's two regular annual ministerial meetings, requirements for implementation of activities related to the programme of work of the Standing Advisory Committee are expected to be met from the Trust Fund for the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa. The Fund balance, excluding provision for the holding of a subregional conference on the topic 'Democratic institutions and peace in Central Africa' currently stands at $106,000. It would be depleted in covering the cost of the meeting in Gabon ($105,100) and the publication of the reference document, if other voluntary contributions are not forthcoming. States members of the Committee are aware that implementation of other activities outlined in paragraph 1 (b) above rests on receipt of additional voluntary contributions to the Fund. Additional requirements are therefore not expected to arise under the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999.

G. Indication of additional requirements

9. Accordingly, should the General Assembly approve draft resolution A/C.1/52/L.6, no additional requirements would arise under section 2 (proposed for transfer to new section 2B) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999.

Notes

[1] Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 6 and corrigendum (A/51/6 and Corr.1).

[2] Ibid., Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/52/6/Rev.1), vols. I and II.